



THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management



Internet is a source of weather info

By Darin Langerud

The Internet has been hailed as many things. You can shop, get directions, plan a vacation, and even buy a car. But my favorite thing about the Internet is the abundance of weather information you can find, and it's all free! Not so long ago, the only people who had access to weather maps, satellite pictures and radar data were professionals in the industry, but all that has changed. There are literally hundreds of sites on the web where you can get almost any kind of weather information you want, all with a few clicks of your mouse.

If it's comprehensive weather forecasts you want, one of your best bets is the Weather Channel's web site at www.weather.com. Here you can find information on the top weather stories, features such as ski reports and how the weather affects your health, and, of course, national, regional, and local forecasts with all kinds of charts and maps. For North Dakota forecasts and information go

to the National Weather Service sites in Bismarck at www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/, or Grand Forks at www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/.

If it's satellite pictures you're looking for, go to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research home page at www.rap.ucar.edu/weather/satellite/. Here you can find visible and infrared images from the GOES weather satellites positioned 23,000 miles above the earth. Not only do they have single images that update frequently, you can also view animations of images that allow you to see where clouds are developing and moving.

For some of the best radar data on the web, go to the Intellicast web site at www.intellicast.com. You can see national radar mosaics, regional views, and even specific radars such as the NEXRAD doppler radars in Bismarck, Minot, and Mayville. Intellicast also has a host of other information to satisfy your weather cravings.

Other web sites provide specialized information like the Storm Prediction Center at www.spc.noaa.gov/, where you can find out where severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are likely to strike, or Global Atmospheric's web site at www.lightningstorm.com, which tracks and displays lightning strikes across the continental United States.

These are only a few of the sites in cyberspace that offer weather information. Should you go looking, you're bound to find others that you'll like. Check them out and the next time someone asks you "How's the weather?," you can surprise them with your answer. Happy surfing! ■

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